



May 5, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC Power), I am writing to give you our strong endorsement for H.R. 1662, the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003. PNGC Power is a not for profit wholesale electric cooperative owned by 15 member/owner cooperatives with service territories in seven western states. Serving mostly agricultural areas of the Northwest, our members have first hand knowledge of the need for use of the best data available when implementing federal environmental laws.

Your leadership in proposing this much-needed legislation is to be commended. The emphasis that H.R. 1662 places upon sound science and peer review as part of the process for implementation of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act is long overdue. These issues are so important both to the environment and to the economy of our country that anything less than use of the best scientific and commercial data is unacceptable.

In the Northwest, effective protection of the environment in balance with many other demands put upon our natural resources calls out for the proposals in your bill. Specifically, we support provisions in H.R. 1662 that would place greater weight on scientific or commercial data that is empirical or has been field-tested or peer-reviewed. Our environment and our citizens deserve decisions based on the best information available. Demanding that this information be used in decisions on listing, **recovery**, and delisting of **species** just makes **sense**. In addition, providing for independent peer review of these actions will ensure the integrity of these processes.

Thank you for your efforts to enact these needed improvements to the laws that provide protection for endangered species in our nation. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Scott Corwin'.

Scott Corwin  
Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs  
PNGC Power

**Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative**

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